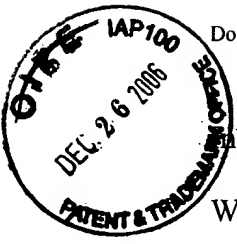


1743



Doc. #436338

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of:)	
)	Before the Examiner
Wolfgang-Reinhold Knappe)	
)	Lyle Alexander
Serial No. 09/426,931)	
)	Group Art Unit 1743
Filed October 22, 1999)	
)	
SPREADING LAYERS, WETTING)	
AGENTS FOR THEIR PRODUCTION)	
AND THEIR USE IN TEST STRIPS)	December 21, 2006

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 26, 2006, please consider the following. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any additional fees which may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 21, 2006.

Timothy N. Thomas
Name of Registered Representative

Timothy N. Thomas
Signature

December 21, 2006
Date of Signature